



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

22204 7590 03/19/2003

NIXON PEABODY, LLP
8180 GREENSBORO DRIVE
SUITE 800
MCLEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER

KEBEDE, BROOK

ART UNIT

CLASS-SUBCLASS

2823

438-780000

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2003

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,004	11/13/2001	Tomofumi Shono	740819-687	6379

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR FABRICATING ORGANIC THIN FILM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1300	\$300	\$1600	06/19/2003

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.
- B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or
- B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.
- ☐ Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Box ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Fax (703)746-4000**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 4 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Legibly mark-up with any corrections or use Block 1)

22204 7590 03/19/2003
NIXON PEABODY, LLP
8180 GREENSBORO DRIVE
SUITE 800
MCLEAN, VA 22102

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Box Issue Fee address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,004	11/13/2001	Tomofumi Shono	740819-687	6379

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR FABRICATING ORGANIC THIN FILM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1300	\$300	\$1600	06/19/2003

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
KEBEDE, BROOK	2823	438-780000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.
- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. Inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment has been previously submitted to the USPTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) ☐ individual ☐ corporation or other private group entity ☐ government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

- ☐ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

Commissioner for Patents is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above.

(Authorized Signature)

(Date)

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMIT THIS FORM WITH FEE(S)



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,004	11/13/2001	Tomofumi Shono	740819-687	6379
22204	7590	03/19/2003	EXAMINER	
NIXON PEABODY, LLP 8180 GREENSBORO DRIVE SUITE 800 MCLEAN, VA 22102			KEBEDE, BROOK	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2823	

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2003

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The patent term adjustment to date is 65 days. If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the term adjustment will be 65 days.

If a continued prosecution application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines patent term adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. (<http://pair.uspto.gov>)

Any questions regarding the patent term extension or adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703)305-1383.

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,004	11/13/2001	Tomofumi Shono	740819-687	6379
22204	7590	03/19/2003	EXAMINER	
NIXON PEABODY, LLP 8180 GREENSBORO DRIVE SUITE 800 MCLEAN, VA 22102 UNITED STATES			KEBEDE, BROOK	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2823	

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2003

Notice of Fee Increase on January 1, 2003

If a reply to a "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" is filed in the Office on or after January 1, 2003, then the amount due will be higher than that set forth in the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" since there will be an increase in fees effective on January 1, 2003. See Revision of Patent and Trademark Fees for Fiscal Year 2003; Final Rule, 67 Fed. Reg. 70847, 70849 (November 27, 2002).

The current fee schedule is accessible from: <http://www.uspto.gov/main/howtofees.htm>.

If the issue fee paid is the amount shown on the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due," but not the correct amount in view of the fee increase, a "Notice to Pay Balance of Issue Fee" will be mailed to applicant. In order to avoid processing delays associated with mailing of a "Notice to Pay Balance of Issue Fee," if the response to the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) due form is to be filed on or after January 1, 2003 (or mailed with a certificate of mailing on or after January 1, 2003), the issue fee paid should be the fee that is required at the time the fee is paid. If the issue fee was previously paid, and the response to the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" includes a request to apply a previously-paid issue fee to the issue fee now due, then the difference between the issue fee amount at the time the response is filed and the previously paid issue fee should be paid. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 1308.01 (Eighth Edition, August 2001).

Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

80n

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/987,004	SHONO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brook Kebede	2823	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 13 November 2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. <u>2,4</u> . | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-12 are allowed over prior art of record.

Reason for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the claimed subject matter of the instant application as a whole either taken alone or in combination, in particular, prior art of record does not teach "forming an undercoating film made of silicon nitride or silicon nitride oxide on a substrate; wet-cleaning said undercoating film using a cleaning liquid; irradiating far ultraviolet ray onto said undercoating film of which wet-cleaning has been completed; and forming an organic thin film with a thickness of about 100 nm or thinner on said undercoating film onto which far ultraviolet ray has been irradiated by turning said substrate and supplying a liquid organic material onto said substrate," as recited in claim 1, "forming an undercoating film made of silicon nitride or silicon nitride oxide on a substrate; wet-cleaning said undercoating film using a cleaning liquid; and forming an organic thin film with a thickness of about 100nm or thinner on said undercoating film of which wet-cleaning has been completed by turning said substrate and supplying a liquid organic material onto said substrate; wherein said organic material contains at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethyl lactate, methyl methoxy

Art Unit: 2823

propionate, ethyl ethoxy propionate, 2-heptanone, ethyl pyruvate, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether, methyl cellosolve acetate, propylene glycol monoethyl ether acetate, ethyl methoxy propionate, methyl lactate and methyl pyruvate,” as recited in claim 6, and “forming an undercoating film made of silicon nitride or silicon nitride oxide on a substrate; irradiating far ultraviolet ray onto said undercoating film; and forming an organic thin film with a thickness of about 100 nm or thinner on said undercoating film onto which far ultraviolet ray has been irradiated, by turning said substrate and supplying a liquid organic material onto said substrate; wherein said organic material contains at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethyl lactate, methyl methoxy propionate, ethyl ethoxy propionate, 2-heptanone, ethyl pyruvate, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether, methyl cellosolve acetate, propylene glycol monoethyl ether acetate, ethyl methoxy propionate, methyl lactate and methyl pyruvate,” as recited claim 10 respectively.

Re claims 1, 6 and 10, Ota et al. (US/6,029,679) disclose cleaning method of a semiconductor wafer wherein substrate of the wafer covered with a film containing a group selected from a resist, silicon nitride or silicon oxide. However, Ota et al. fail to teach or suggest “irradiating far ultraviolet ray onto said undercoating film of which wet-cleaning has been completed; and forming an organic thin film with a thickness of about 100 nm or thinner on said undercoating film onto which far ultraviolet ray has been irradiated by turning said substrate and supplying a liquid organic material onto said substrate,” as recited in claim 1, “forming an organic thin film with a thickness of about 100nm or thinner on said undercoating film of which wet-cleaning has been completed by turning said substrate and supplying a liquid organic material onto said substrate; wherein said organic material contains at least one solvent selected

Art Unit: 2823

from the group consisting of propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethyl lactate, methyl methoxy propionate, ethyl ethoxy propionate, 2-heptanone, ethyl pyruvate, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether, methyl cellosolve acetate, propylene glycol monoethyl ether acetate, ethyl methoxy propionate, methyl lactate and methyl pyruvate,” as recited in claim 6, or “irradiating far ultraviolet ray onto said undercoating film; and forming an organic thin film with a thickness of about 100 nm or thinner on said undercoating film onto which far ultraviolet ray has been irradiated, by turning said substrate and supplying a liquid organic material onto said substrate; wherein said organic material contains at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethyl lactate, methyl methoxy propionate, ethyl ethoxy propionate, 2-heptanone, ethyl pyruvate, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether, methyl cellosolve acetate, propylene glycol monoethyl ether acetate, ethyl methoxy propionate, methyl lactate and methyl pyruvate,” as recited claim 10.

Okada et al. (US/6,040,034) also disclose forming of an organic film containing a solvent selected the group consisting cyclohexanone, xylene, butyl acetate, and amyl acetate on a substrate. However, Okada et al. fail to teach or suggest “forming an undercoating film made of silicon nitride or silicon nitride oxide on a substrate; wet-cleaning said undercoating film using a cleaning liquid; and forming an organic thin film with a thickness of about 100nm or thinner on said undercoating film of which wet-cleaning has been completed by turning said substrate and supplying a liquid organic material onto said substrate,” as recited in claim 6, and “forming an undercoating film made of silicon nitride or silicon nitride oxide on a substrate; wet-cleaning said undercoating film using a cleaning liquid; irradiating far ultraviolet ray onto said

Art Unit: 2823

undercoating film of which wet-cleaning has been completed; and forming an organic thin film with a thickness of about 100 nm or thinner on said undercoating film onto which far ultraviolet ray has been irradiated by turning said substrate and supplying a liquid organic material onto said substrate,” as recited in claims 1 and 10 respectively.

Horie et al. (US/6,517,642) disclose method of forming ultra fine film containing an organic solvent on a substrate while rotating a substrate. However, Horie et al. fail to teach or suggest “forming an undercoating film made of silicon nitride or silicon nitride oxide on a substrate; wet-cleaning said undercoating film using a cleaning liquid; and forming an organic thin film with a thickness of about 100nm or thinner on said undercoating film of which wet-cleaning has been completed by turning said substrate and supplying a liquid organic material onto said substrate,” as recited in claim 6, and “forming an undercoating film made of silicon nitride or silicon nitride oxide on a substrate; wet-cleaning said undercoating film using a cleaning liquid; irradiating far ultraviolet ray onto said undercoating film of which wet-cleaning has been completed; and forming an organic thin film with a thickness of about 100 nm or thinner on said undercoating film onto which far ultraviolet ray has been irradiated by turning said substrate and supplying a liquid organic material onto said substrate,” as recited in claims 1 and 10 respectively.

Therefore, Ota et al., Okada et al., and Horie et al. neither teach nor suggest the claimed invention of the instant application either taken alone or in combination.

Claims 2-5, 7-9, 11, and 12 are also allowed as being dependent of the allowed independent base claim.

Conclusion

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brook Kebede whose telephone number is (703) 306-4511. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5 Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri can be reached on (703) 306-2794. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Brook Kebede

March 16, 2003



Olik Chaudhuri
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800